

10th July, 1947.

B.S.E. 1947/5.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS.

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PART I: EMPLOYMENT AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES.E m p l o y m e n t (New South Wales)GENERAL:

Total employment in non-rural industries continues to increase. From November 1946 to May 1947, the number of male employees at work increased by 23,000. In the same period the number of men in the armed forces from New South Wales decreased by 11,000.

About 200,000 servicemen have been discharged in this State since the end of the war. Of these about a third are employers, workers on own account or rural workers. The others form the bulk of the increase of 127,000 in number of male employees since the end of the war. Apart from a small number of men still in training and a small reserve of unskilled and semi-skilled workers, further increases in the number of available wage earners can occur only from natural increase, immigration and transfers of employers or self-employers to wage earning employment. On the other hand, it is to be expected that new factories and expansion to existing factories, as well as expansion of house building and other construction, will further increase the demand for labour. The introduction of the 40 hours week, in July 1947, will have a similar effect, unless it is met by increase in overtime worked or increased intensity of effort, or other adjustment.

The number of females in employment (excluding domestic and rural) was 252,000 at the end of May, 1947. This is very much greater than in July, 1939 (168,000). After a fall of 6,000 between July, 1945 and July, 1946, female employment rose back to the high war-time level, but has shown little change since November, 1946.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

(Excluding employers, unpaid helpers, and workers on own account).

Thousands

Month	WAGE & SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT.					MEN FROM N.S.W. UNEMPLOYMENT IN ARMED FORCES (All Causes)	
	Rural	Domestics	All Other Wage Earners				
	Workers	(a)	(Excl. Rural and Domestics)				
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total		
1939 July	81(b)	52	530	168	698	6	112
1945 July	40(b)	19	541	247	788	224	18(c)
1946 July	63(b)	20	625	243	868	50	
Aug.			633	243	876	45	
Sept.			638	245	883	42	
Oct.			643	247	890	38	
Nov.			647	250	897	36	
Dec.			647	251	898	33	
1947 Jan.			653	249	902	30	
Feb.			655	249	904	28	
March			662	251	913	27	
April			665	251	916	26	
May			668	252	920	25	

(a) Employed in private households.

(b) Ascertained annually in March.

(c) Probably no change since July, 1945.

Note: The foregoing figures have been revised since last issue in the light of data from the Occupation Survey, 1945, annual factory returns and quarterly returns of builders. Owing to time lag in obtaining actual records, the estimates for the most recent months are subject to revision. They do not necessarily reflect precise changes from month to month but show degree of change over periods of three months or longer.



COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE: (N.S.W.)

An excess of 3,200 in the number of vacancies for men (registrations with C.E.S. offices) over the number of those waiting for placement in May is symptomatic of the present shortage of labour. The fall in the number of vacancies in April was due to a temporary cut of 2,000 in labour requirements for the Warragamba Dam construction; a further fall of 1,000 in May may be due to material shortages or the realisation by employers that labour is unprocureable.

The shortage of male labour is particularly acute for skilled jobs in the heavy industries, mining, and building and construction work; there is still a number of men in occupations requiring less skill (drivers, storemen, unskilled manual workers, watchmen, cleaners) who are out of work or want a change of job. At the end of May, only 1,800 men were receiving unemployment benefits, including a large proportion in mining towns where no alternative employment for men unfit for mine-work is available. Apart from the Sydney area, the shortage of many types of labour is felt also in the Wollongong and Newcastle districts (mining, steelworks, building).

Shortage of female labour remains acute in most occupations. The number of vacancies for women registered with the C.E.S. has fallen from 10,500 in August 1946 to 6,900 in May, 1947. This fall may be due partly or wholly through employers failing to notify all vacancies on account of the shortage of female labour registered. The shortage of female factory workers extends now also to some country towns (Albury, Goulburn) where clothing factories have been established during and since the war.

REGISTRATIONS WITH COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, NEW SOUTH WALES.

T h o u s a n d s

End of Month	JUVENILES				ADULTS				Unemployment Beneficiaries	
	Males		Females		Males		Females		Male	Female
	Un-placed	Vacancies	Un-placed	Vacancies	Un-placed	Vacancies	Un-placed	Vacancies		
1946-July	0.6	1.8	0.8	5.3	10.4	8.7	2.6	10.0	2.4	0.1
August	0.6	1.8	0.6	5.4	10.1	10.0	1.2	10.5	2.5	0.1
September	0.6	1.9	0.6	5.4	9.2	10.1	1.3	10.4	2.7	0.1
October	0.7	1.8	0.6	5.4	9.0	10.8	1.3	9.7	2.4	0.1
November	0.7	1.8	0.5	5.4	10.3	10.6	1.1	8.5	2.1	0.1
December	0.8	1.6	0.6	4.9	11.3	8.6	1.1	7.4	3.1	0.1
1947-January	1.0	1.8	0.8	5.1	12.9	9.7	1.5	7.8	3.2	0.1
February	1.0	2.0	0.7	4.8	12.4	12.8	1.4	8.4	3.6	0.1
March	0.9	2.0	0.7	4.9	9.3	14.1	1.5	7.5	1.7	0.1
April	0.8	1.9	0.6	4.8	8.3	12.3	1.3	7.4	1.8	0.1
May	0.8	2.1	0.6	4.8	8.1	11.3	1.4	6.9	1.8	0.1

EMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIES:

The main increase in employment in the six months from November, 1946 to May, 1947 has been in the "other industries" group which includes building and construction. Factories, transport and communications, commerce, finance, and professional services, also show appreciable rises in employment in that period. Employment in the retail and commerce and finance groups, which had been reduced during the war years, now exceeds substantially the pre-war level. Factory employment has risen by over 50% since 1939.

EMPLOYEES IN MAIN INDUSTRIES: NEW SOUTH WALES.

Thousands (Males and Females combined)

Month	Factories	Mining and Quarry -ing	Transport and Communi- cation	Retail Trade	Commerce and Finance	Profess- -ional and Personal Services	Other	TOTAL Wage and Salary Earners(a)
1939-July	218.0	25.3	88.9	79.9	59.3	107.6	118.9	697.9
1945-July	302.3	24.9	100.5	67.7	56.7	115.4	120.4	787.9
1946-July	321.1	25.9	110.2	81.3	72.3	130.3	127.3	868.4
Oct.	328.6	26.5	110.5	83.3	75.6	134.7	130.5	889.7
Nov.	329.5	26.8	111.1	86.3	75.8	135.4	132.0	896.9
Dec.	327.1	26.6	110.9	89.4	75.9	136.0	132.2	898.1
1947-Jan.	329.4	26.5	112.1	86.9	76.2	136.8	134.0	901.9
Feb.	329.2	26.5	112.2	85.3	77.0	137.3	136.1	903.6
Mar.	335.3	26.3	112.5	85.7	77.8	139.0	136.7	913.3
Apr.	333.9	26.4	114.8	86.2	77.7	139.6	137.3	915.9
May	334.1	26.6	114.7	86.4	78.2	139.5	140.0	919.5
Variation(b)								
Nov.'46 to May'47	+4.6	-0.2	+3.6	+0.1	+2.4	+4.1	+8.0	+22.6
July'45 to May'47	+31.8	+1.7	+14.2	+18.7	+21.5	+24.1	+19.6	+131.6

(a) Excluding rural workers and female domestics in private households.

(b) (+) denotes increase; (-) decrease.

Note: The above figures have been revised since last issue. See note below table on page 1.

EMPLOYEES IN FACTORIES:

The number of employees in clothing and textile factories has shown a small improvement in recent months. The seasonal decline in activities of canning works caused a fall in the food, drink and tobacco group from 36,100 in March to 34,000 in May.

FACTORY EMPLOYEES: NEW SOUTH WALES.

Factory Class	(Thousands)							
	1939 July	1945 July	1946 Nov.	1947 Jan.	1947 Feb.	1947 Mar.	1947 Apr.	1947 May
Bricks, cement, glass, etc..	12.3	10.4	14.8	14.8	14.9	14.9	15.1	15.2
Chemicals, paints, oils, etc..	8.0	12.3	14.1	13.9	14.2	14.2	14.3	14.3
Metal trades (incl. vehicles)	81.3	143.7	139.2	139.2	137.5	141.8	141.3	141.1
Textiles	14.7	17.8	20.7	20.6	20.7	20.9	21.1	21.4
Clothing	29.1	33.4	40.9	40.3	40.5	40.9	41.1	41.4
Food, drink, and tobacco	26.4	32.5	34.7	34.8	35.3	36.1	34.4	34.0
Sawmills, woodworking, furniture	14.4	16.5	19.4	19.5	19.6	19.6	19.6	19.6
Paper, printing, etc..	16.4	15.7	20.1	20.1	20.3	20.6	20.7	20.8
Other factories (incl. heat, light, and power)	15.5	20.0	25.6	26.2	26.2	26.3	26.3	26.3
Total Factory Employees (a)	218.1	302.3	329.5	329.4	329.2	335.3	333.9	334.1

(a) Excluding Working Proprietors.

Note: The above figures have been revised since last issue. See note below table on page 1.



EMPLOYMENT OF FEMALES:

During April and May, only small changes of a seasonal character occurred in female employment. Factory employment, which had fallen from 85,700 in July, 1945 to 83,200 in July, 1946, has now again reached 85,600. Most of the major industrial groups could absorb more female labour if it were available.

FEMALE EMPLOYEES IN MAIN INDUSTRIES: NEW SOUTH WALES.  
(Thousands)

Month	Factories	Transport and Communi- cation	Retail Trade	Commerce and Finance	Profess- ional and Personal Services	Other	TOTAL Female wage and salary earners(a)
1939-July	59.3	5.3	32.5	10.2	47.7	13.0	168.0
1945-July	85.7	14.5	37.5	21.1	69.6	18.3	246.7
1946-July	83.2	12.9	39.2	21.1	73.3	13.3	243.0
Oct.	84.7	12.3	39.6	22.0	75.3	12.9	246.8
Nov.	85.6	12.2	41.3	22.0	75.6	12.8	249.5
Dec.	85.0	12.1	43.1	21.8	75.8	12.9	250.7
1947-Jan.	84.0	12.4	41.6	21.7	75.8	13.1	248.6
Feb.	85.1	12.7	40.3	22.0	75.9	13.0	249.0
March	86.4	12.7	40.5	22.1	76.7	13.2	251.6
April	85.3	12.7	40.6	22.0	77.3	13.2	251.1
May	85.6	12.7	40.7	22.1	77.0	13.4	251.5
Variation (b)							
Nov.'46 to May '47	...	+0.5	-0.6	+0.1	+1.4	+0.6	+2.0
July'39 to May '47	+26.3	+7.4	+8.2	+11.9	+29.3	+0.4	+83.5

(a) Excluding employees in rural industries and female domestics in private households.

(b) (+) denotes increase, (-) decrease.

Note: The above figures have been revised slightly since last issue. See note below table on page 1.

Since the end of the war, employment of women in the metal trades has fallen by 6,700 and in food, drink and tobacco factories by 800; other factories together have absorbed an equal number, clothing factories with an increase of 5,100 taking the greater part of it.

FEMALE EMPLOYEES IN FACTORIES: NEW SOUTH WALES.  
(Thousands)

Factory Class	1939 1945 1946			1947				
	July	July	Nov.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May
Bricks, cement, glass, etc.	.5	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8
Chemicals, paints, oils, etc.	2.7	4.0	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4
Metal trades (incl. vehicles)	4.8	19.6	13.3	13.0	13.0	13.2	13.1	12.9
Textiles	9.2	11.1	11.3	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.5
Clothing	22.2	26.0	30.9	30.3	30.4	30.8	30.9	31.1
Food, drink, and Tobacco	9.3	11.6	10.6	10.8	11.5	12.0	10.8	10.8
Sawmills, woodworking, furni- ure	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Paper, printing, etc.	5.4	5.6	6.2	5.9	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.2
Other factories (incl. heat, light, and power)	3.6	5.2	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9
Total Female Factory Employees	59.3	85.7	85.6	84.0	85.1	86.4	85.3	85.6

Note: The above figures have been revised slightly since last issue.  
See note below table on page 1.

NEW FACTORIES: (New South Wales).

The growth of new factory activity continues very strongly in New South Wales. In the seven years ended June 1946 the number of factories (establishments using power or employing four or more workers for manufacture) increased from 9,464 to 12,287 or by 2,823. During the year ended June 1947, an additional 1,578 new factories were recorded and complete collection now being made under the New South Wales Census Act is likely to show a still greater figure. While many of these new factories are small, a substantial number of them is already of considerable size and the initial employment in them was stated to be 10,621. Employment in factories previously established is also increasing.

In the eleven months ended May 1947, total employment in factories in New South Wales increased by 15,400 compared with 17,000 in the year ended June 1946 and 82,000 during the six years ended June 1945.

Initial employment in new factories registered in New South Wales rose from 7,726 in 1945/46 to 10,621 in 1946/47 (year ended June). A third of the number in 1946/47 was employed in new factories outside the Sydney and suburban area. Comparing employment in new and in existing factories, clothing and woodworking and furniture factories showed the greatest expansion during the year. These figures do not include the expansion of existing factories.

INITIAL EMPLOYMENT IN NEW FACTORIES REGISTERED IN N.S.W.

Class of Factory	Metropolitan		Balance of State		Total State	
	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47
Metal Trades incl. vehicles	1,928	2,142	656	555	2,584	2,697
Clothing	1,638	2,049	1,009	1,058	2,647	3,107
Food, drink & tobacco	188	400	77	396	265	796
Woodworking, incl. sawmills	296	323	223	423	519	746
Paper, stationery, printing	123	311	32	117	155	428
Textile & textile goods	198	117	82	427	280	544
Furniture	206	294	54	225	260	519
Other Factories	801	1,432	215	352	1,016	1,784
All Factories	5,378	7,068	2,348	3,553	7,726	10,621

COAL PRODUCTION:

Output during the four weeks ended early June 1947 was 834,000 tons compared with 906,000 tons in the corresponding weeks of 1946. Current supplies are not sufficient to meet requirements so that operations in the steel and other industries have had to be curtailed. Coal production for the first 24 weeks of 1947 totalled 4,545,000 tons that is 186,000 tons less than for the same period of last year. Unless present rate of production is increased, last year's total of 11.2 million tons may not be reached in 1947. In the Davidson report of 1946, Australia's immediate needs of New South Wales coal for essential requirements were estimated at 12 million tons a year; this output has never been reached except in one year (1942).

COAL PRODUCTION, NEW SOUTH WALES

Thousand tons			
Yearly Average	Underground	Open Cut	Total
1936-1939	10,004	-	10,004
1940-1944	11,237	-	11,237
1945	9,714	524	10,238
1946	10,430	756	11,186
Period of 24 weeks			
January-June 1945	4,628	232	4,860
1946	4,440	291	4,731
1947 x	4,190	355	4,545

x Preliminary.



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES:

Detailed statistics as to industrial disputes in New South Wales during 1946 have now been published. A total of 916,000 man-working days were lost through industrial disputes during the year, as compared with 1,879,000 in 1945 and an annual average of 644,000 for the three years 1937-39. Coal-mining disputes accounted for about a third of the total in 1945 and 1946. Principal other industries affected in 1946 were: Iron and Steel works (354,000 days lost), waterside workers (132,000 days lost), manufacturing industries (57,000 days lost). These figures indicate only the time lost in direct consequence of industrial disputes without showing the effect of disputes in the basic material and transport industries on other undertakings. Among causes of industrial disputes in 1946, those relating to working conditions were responsible for 37% of the man-working days lost in mines, and disputes as to employment of labour for 18%; 50% of the loss in other industries was due to wage disputes.

CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

(Man-working days lost in per cent of total for 1946)

	Wages	Hours	Working Conditions	Employment	Trade Unionism	Sympathy	Other <sup>x</sup>
Coal Mining	17%	-	37%	18%	5%	2%	21%
Other Empl.	50%	10%	15%	14%	-	8%	3%

x Including causes not stated.

Comparing the industrial dislocations following the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 wars, it appears that the reconversion from war to peace conditions was effected more smoothly in 1945/46 than in the industrial upheaval of 1919/20. Total employment has greatly increased since then; at the same time proportion of manworking days lost through disputes to total man-days has decreased. However, it must be considered that because of the growth of secondary industries, production of coal and other basic materials, such as iron and steel, has gained in importance as key to production in other industries and that disputes affecting them often cause major dislocations (not recorded in these statistics) with more serious effects on the economy than they would have had in the 1920's.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES - NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Thousand Man-days lost)

Annual Averages	Coal Mining	Other Employment	Total	Monthly Averages	Coal Mining	Other Employment	Total
1914-1918	520	603	1,123	1937-39	39	14	53
1919	241	1,892	2,133	1946	25	51	76
1920	320	1,980	2,300	1947 Jan.	36	195	231
1937-1939	474	170	644	Feb.	52	193	245
1940-1944	483	328	811	Mch.	50	85	135
1945	630	1,249	1,879	April	43	21	64
1946	299	617	916	May	58	19	77

In May 1947, disputes as to the jurisdiction of coal authorities over colliery engine-drivers and firemen led to widespread stoppages in coal mines, and were the main cause of a loss of 58,000 man-working days, the greatest loss for any month since 1945. The principal disputes in other industries were those at I.C.I. and Austral Bronze, which were initiated several months ago.

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS:

Passenger traffic on the New South Wales railways during 1946/47 (eleven months period) was slightly below the high level of 1945/46 but 39% higher than in 1938/39; the tonnage of goods carried in 1946/47, although below the wartime peak, also exceeded the pre-war level. Because of the depletion of coal reserves, passenger and goods services have been curtailed as from 7th June, 1947.

The increased volume of railway traffic during and since the war has greatly increased gross railway earnings as compared with pre-war years, but this increase is exceeded by the rise in wage rates and material costs, with a consequent decline in the balance of earnings available to meet debt charges which in 1945/46 amounted to about £7 millions. It has been announced that the loss on railway operations for the full year 1946-47 was £1.5 millions, and it is estimated that costs will rise very substantially during 1947-48 when the full effect of recent wage rises and the introduction of the 40-hour week is taken into account.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

Year	Month of May			Eleven Months ended May			
	Passenger Journeys	Goods (a)	Gross Earnings	Passenger Journeys	Goods (a)	Gross Earnings	Net Earnings(b)
	millions	mill.tons	£mill.	millions	mill.tons	£mill.	£mill.
1939	15.6	1.41	1.77	171.9	13.39	17.56	4.83
1945	21.6	1.46	2.75	232.5	16.39	29.07	6.80
1946	23.5	1.56	2.78	245.7	14.50	28.74	6.21
1947	22.0	1.37	2.53	238.3	15.15	27.97	5.02

(a) Excluding livestock. (b) Gross earnings less working expenses: available to meet debt charges.

#### GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES (Sydney and Newcastle).

A slight decline in the number of passenger journeys during 1946/47 as compared with the two preceding years coupled with a small rise in gross earnings seems to be due to the abolition of wartime feeder services and consequently longer through runs. Gross earnings for the eleven months period of 1946/47 were £5.6 millions, or £147,000 more than in 1945/46 and £593,000 more than in 1938-39. However, working expenses show, proportionally, a much greater increase, and by the end of May, 1947 the deficit on working account had risen to £58,000, to which depreciation and debt charges (which required £488,000 for the year 1945/46) must be added. Introduction of the 40-hours week will increase expenses substantially in 1947-48. Increases in tram and bus fares which came into force on the 1st July 1947 are expected to yield an increase of over £1 million in earnings for 1947-48.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES - SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.

Year	Month of May			Eleven Months ended May.			
	Passenger Journeys	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	Passenger Journeys	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	Net Earnings
	(a)		(b)	(a)		(b)	(c)
	millions	£000	£000	millions	£000	£000	£000
1939	32.6	380	314	344.3	4,023	3,388	634
1945	45.9	490	490	499.3	5,313	4,787	526
1946	46.5	515	515	500.6	5,469	5,310	159
1947	45.6	522	522	490.8	5,616	5,674	(-) 58

(a) Excluding passengers not travelling beyond the Sydney Harbour Bridge section.  
 (b) Excluding depreciation and debt charges.  
 (c) Available to meet debt charges. Deficit in 1947.

#### MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTRATIONS:

Cars: Registrations of new motor cars in May, 1947 totalled 835, a small improvement upon earlier months of the year, but still less than half the pre-war average. Local manufacture of bodies for imported chassis is hampered by the shortages of materials (steel etc.) and of skilled labour, and by transport difficulties and industrial disputes. According to trade estimates, 20,000 chassis are awaiting completion in Australian plants. A temporary improvement in the supply position is likely from the relaxation of regulations which now allow the import of complete cars to the value of base year quotas for unassembled vehicles. Progress has been made in



production plans of all-Australian models and mass production is expected to begin by the end of next year. The total number of cars on the New South Wales register was 200,900 at the end of May, 1947 as compared with 218,700 at the outbreak of war. The average age of cars on the register is now much higher than prior to the war, and many would be scrapped if new models were available.

Lorries and Utilities: Proportionally more import licenses for trucks and utilities than for cars have been granted since the end of the war. New registrations for May, 1947 totalled 540, that is 120 less than the 1938/39 average. Apart from new trucks a considerable number of Army vehicles sold at disposal sales has been converted to civilian use, and the total number on the register at the end of May (114,700) was 45% higher than at outbreak of war.

#### REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Period	NEW VEHICLES REGISTERED			CIVILIAN VEHICLES ON REGISTER x		
	Cars (a)	Lorries (b)	Total	Cars (a)	Lorries (b)	Total
1938-39 (Monthly Average)	1,718	660	2,378	218.7xx	78.7xx	297.4xx
1945 - August	26	201	227	188.1	86.1	274.2
1946 - August	319	521	840	194.0	102.2	296.2
November	815	438	1,253	196.7	107.3	304.0
December	893	430	1,323	197.9	108.8	306.7
1947 - January	584	334	918	198.5	109.9	308.4
February	781	427	1,208	199.1	111.0	310.1
March	770	468	1,238	199.7	112.3	312.0
April	783	513	1,296	200.3	113.5	313.8
May	835	540	1,375	200.9	114.7	315.6

(a) Including motor buses and cabs. (b) Including utilities, vans and tractors  
x At end of month xx At 31st August, 1939.

#### IRON & STEEL PRODUCTION, GAS & ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION:

Iron and steel production during the early part of May showed a recovery over the low figures of the two previous months but shortage of coal forced a temporary curtailment in steel works operations during the last week of May.

Between February and May, 1947, gas and electricity consumption in Sydney has been 64% to 67% above pre-war level, and also considerably higher than during the war years.

#### INDUSTRIAL INDICES

(Monthly Average, 1937-39 = 100)

Period	Pig Iron Production(a)	Ingot Steel Production	Gas and Electricity Consumption(Sydney)(b)
1938-39	112	103	104
1941-42	159	150	123
1944-45	114	119	143
1945-46	87	93	147
1947-January	117	106	142
February	130	111	167
March	91	85	164
April(c)	114	97	167
May (c)	118	100	164

(a) N.S.W. and Whyalla. (b) Seasonally adjusted. (c) Subject to revision.

PART II FINANCE AND TRADE.NINE TRADING BANKS:New South Wales.

The fall of £3 millions in trading bank deposits during May 1947 has no special significance. It is part of the customary mid-year movement due to factors such as tax payments, and termination of the season's selling of wool and other primary products.

The general trend still is for trading bank deposits to increase, and the amount in May 1947 (£246 millions) is more than twice the amount at the outbreak of war (£115 millions). But the rate of increase is slackening. Comparative amounts of increase from mid-year to mid-year are approximately as follow 1943-44, £35 millions; 1944-45, £20 millions; 1945-46, £13 millions; and 1946-47, £7 millions.

Re-expansion of advances, after their decline during the war years, has been continuous over the past year. They rose from £88 millions in May, 1946 to £114 millions in May, 1947. This amount is a little below the pre-war total (£123 millions in September Quarter 1939) but, allowing for the substantial rise in price levels, it is evident that the volume of business at present financed by bank advances is very far below the pre-war level.

NINE TRADING BANKS, DEPOSITS AND ADVANCES IN N.S.W.  
(Weekly Average - £ millions)

Period	Deposits	Advances	Period	Deposits	Advances
Sept. Qtr. 1939	115	123	1946 May	239	88
" " 1943	172	94	1947 Jan.	247	105
" " 1944	204	85	Feb.	247	106
" " 1945	220	86	March	247	108
" " 1946	236	96	April	249	112
May 1947	246	114	May	246	114

Australia:

Trends in Australian banking figures correspond to those evident in New South Wales. Customers' deposits with trading banks, which had risen from £323 millions in May, 1939 to £587 millions in May, 1945 and £631 millions in May, 1946, showed only a moderate increase of £23 millions to £654 millions between May, 1946 and May, 1947.

Advances to customers of trading banks in Australia fell from £291 millions in May 1939 to £198 millions early in 1945. In May 1946 they had reached £220 millions and in May 1947 £286 millions.

Although the amount of advances (expressed in £) is now nearly equal to that of 1939, it must be discounted very substantially to allow for the substantial rise in price levels before drawing conclusions as to the relative volume of business sustained by advances.

The effects of various expansionary influences operating in Australia have been partly checked by the Commonwealth Government's use of surplus balances for the reduction of short-term debt. The reduction of the trading banks' holdings of Treasury bills and Government securities during the year actually exceeds the increase in trading bank advances to customers.

There has been a substantial decrease in the trading banks' liquid and semi-liquid assets since May, 1946 as shown in the fall of the ratio of cash and treasury bills to deposits from 13% to 9%. In May, 1939 the trading banks held 10% of deposits in cash and treasury bills. But, as the ratio of advances to deposits has fallen from approximately 90% in 1939 to 44% in 1947, and as 43% of deposits are now redeposited on special account with the



Commonwealth Bank, the trading banks can operate on a much smaller liquid assets ratio than before the war.

NINE TRADING BANKS - BUSINESS WITHIN AUSTRALIA.  
(Weekly Averages - £ millions)

Month	Deposits at credit of Customers	Advances to Customers	Gov't & Municipal Securities	Special A/c. with Common- wealth Bank	Treas- ury Bills	Cash	Ratios to Deposits		
							Advan- ces	Cash & Treas- -ury Bills	Special Account
							per cent	per cent	per cent
1939 May	323	291	22	-	25	31	90	18	-
1945 May	587	206	108	242	52	36	35	15	41
1946 May	631	220	123	259	48	35	35	13	41
1947 Jan.	642	264	86	268	29	46	41	12	42
Feb.	650	265	84	272	36	42	41	12	42
March	656	268	82	276	38	39	41	12	42
April	659	278	82	280	29	36	42	10	43
May	654	286	82	280	19	38	44	9	43

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS IN NEW SOUTH WALES:

Since July, 1946, when savings bank deposits reached a peak of £237.3 millions, they have declined steadily, and stood at £228.5 millions, at the end of May, 1947. This is mainly due to the fall in new deposits from a rate of about £17 millions a month early in 1946 to little over £12 millions a month in 1947, caused by the falling off in demobilization credits. Withdrawals of wartime savings and demobilization credits for investment in business and Government loans or use for homebuilding and current spending has so far been on a moderate scale; between January and May 1947, withdrawals averaged about £13 millions as compared with £14 to £15 millions a month during 1946.

NEW SOUTH WALES SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS.  
(£ millions)

Month	Deposits lodged during Month	Withdrawals made during Month	Net Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Savings	N.S.W. Total Deposits	AUSTRALIA All Savings Banks Total Deposits
1939 September	-	-	-	86.6	244.3
1945 September	13.0	10.2	+ 2.8	207.5	593.0
1946 July	16.6	15.5	+ 1.1	237.3	666.6
August	14.5	14.8	- 0.3	237.0	666.9
September	13.1	14.3	- 1.2	235.8	664.8
October	14.1	15.1	- 1.0	234.8	661.9
November	13.4	15.2	- 1.8	233.0	658.2
December	12.5	14.2	- 1.7	231.3	653.8
1947 January	12.4	12.8	- 0.4	230.9	652.8
February	11.8	12.1	- 0.3	230.6	652.4
March	12.7	13.6	- 0.9	229.7	650.8
April	12.5	12.9	- 0.4	229.3	650.0
May	12.8	13.6	- 0.8	228.5	650.3

The decline in depositors' balances since August, 1946 has been due to a fall in the balances of individual accounts, for the number of Savings accounts in operation is still increasing. At the end of May, 1947, 1.96 million accounts were open, as compared with 1.983 millions in August, 1946 and 1.32 millions at the outbreak of war.

SYDNEY STOCK EXCHANGE:

Share prices on the Sydney stock exchange throughout May were generally firm. The demand for most types of shares exceeded offers to sell, and turnovers remained small. The total index of share prices (75 companies) advanced from 254.9 in April to 257.1 in May, 1947, a rise of about 6% since restrictions on share dealings were lifted in January and nearly 50% since the outbreak of war.

The rise in recent months has been mainly due to the gains in industrial, retail, and insurance shares. Advances in share prices during and since the war generally exceed the increase in company profits, with a consequent reduction in share yields.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY.

Prices of Ordinary Shares (excl. Bank). Par value = 100.

(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician)

Month	Manufacturing and Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1939-Aug.	212.6	168.2	156.0	118.2	263.9	174.4	181.9
1942-March	173.0	138.3	120.8	110.3	213.7	140.6	147.0
1945-Aug.	242.3	207.3	170.3	146.8	264.6	195.6	209.9
1946-Aug.	285.7	244.6	193.6	165.1	312.2	226.2	244.5
Dec.	292.4	251.6	197.3	160.7	322.5	229.7	247.2
1947-Jan.	307.8	289.0	202.9	165.5	343.8	243.8	259.6
Feb.	313.0	298.9	195.0	160.3	360.3	246.4	260.4
March	323.2	310.8	194.3	166.4	380.1	252.9	266.7
April	325.4	313.6	194.7	168.3	385.5	254.9	269.9
May	329.2	314.8	196.9	172.6	391.7	257.1	272.4

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.):

After a drop in April, the value of property sales in May recovered to the high level of earlier months of the current year. The number of real estate transfers, which averaged 3,900 a month in 1939 and 2,500 in 1943, increased to an average of 6,800 in 1946 and 6,400 for the first five months of the current year.

In 1938-39 the amount of mortgages granted exceeded two-thirds of the value of property sales while now it is less than one half, which suggests that the proportion of cash sales has increased. There has also been a marked decline in the number and value of registered liens on crop and wool as compared with pre-war years.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.)

(Monthly Averages £ millions)

Period	Sales	Mortgages
1938 Year	3.12	2.25
1945 "	2.35	0.81
1946 "	4.24	1.76
1946 September Quarter	5.37	2.10
December "	5.04	2.26
1947 January	4.56	1.86
February	4.73	2.03
March	4.39	2.00
April	3.59	1.67
May	4.76	2.30



NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS:

Revenue for the eleven months ended May, 1947 totalled £66.9 millions as compared with £63.5 millions for the same period of 1945/46. This rise is mainly due to increased receipts from the Commonwealth; the total of £18 millions for the 1946/47 period under that heading includes £1 million for hospital benefits which are being disbursed through the Hospitals Commission, and £14.3 millions for tax reimbursements (£13.1 millions (tax reimbursements for the eleven months period in 1945/46). For the whole year 1946/47, reimbursements for income and entertainment taxes are budgeted at £16.5 millions as against £15.5 millions in 1945/46. Increased yield in State taxes is mainly due to higher revenue from Stamp and Probate duties.

The total revenue from State business undertakings in 1946/47 (11 months) remained the same as in 1945/46, but expenditure on that account increased by £1.4 millions. Expenditure from loan funds for public works for the eleven months totalled £7.4 millions (not, excluding expenditure from repayments).

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR ELEVEN MONTHS ENDED MAY  
(£ millions)

REVENUE	1945/46	1946/47	EXPENDITURE	1945/46	1946/47
From Commonwealth x	15.7	18.0	Not Debt Charges	14.1	13.5
State taxation	5.7	6.4	Governmental	20.7	23.6
Other Governmental	6.4	6.8	Business Undertakings xx	28.4	29.8
Business Undertakings xx	35.7	35.7	Total Expenditure	63.2	66.9
Total Revenue	63.5	66.9	Not Surplus	0.3	...

x Reimbursement of taxes, payments towards interests and hospital benefits.

xx Railways, trams and buses, Maritime Services. Excludes debt charges.

The Premier announced that for the year 1946-47 the surplus of the Consolidated Revenue Fund would be about £177,000, the surplus on operations of the Maritime Services Board £135,000, while losses in the railway and road transport departments total £2,164,000 making a total deficit of £1,852,000 for the year as compared with a surplus of £381,000 in 1945-46.

COMMONWEALTH ACCOUNTS:

Commonwealth tax receipts for the eleven months ended May, 1947 totalled £317.8 millions, a rise of £23.8 millions over the same period of 1945/46. This is mainly due to increased receipts from indirect taxes which already exceed the budget estimate for the whole year. The rising volume of imports has increased the yield from customs and excise throughout the year in spite of a reduction in rates in December, 1946. Since the revision of sales tax rates, returns from this source have also steadily increased. Because of large tax payments due from individuals and companies other than wage and salary earners during June, receipts for the eleven months give no indication as to whether the budget estimate of £202 millions for income tax and social services contributions will be realised.

**COMMONWEALTH TAX REVENUE**  
(£ millions)

Month	Income Tax (incl. Social Serv. Conts)		Customs & Excise		Sales Tax		Payroll Tax		All Taxes <sup>x</sup>	
	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47	1945/46	1946/47
July	21.0	17.1	5.5	7.6	2.3	3.0	1.0	1.1	30.8	29.7
Aug.	16.0	11.9	5.7	8.3	2.6	3.4	0.9	1.1	26.0	25.6
Sept.	13.1	14.8 <sup>ø</sup>	5.7	8.0	2.4	3.7	1.0	1.1	23.0	28.4
Oct.	13.4	12.3	6.3	8.7	2.9	4.2	0.9	1.1	24.2	27.1
Nov.	12.9	12.2	6.7	8.5	2.7	3.8	0.9	1.2	24.0	26.6
Dec.	11.5	13.6	5.9	8.4 <sup>ø</sup>	1.6	3.2 <sup>ø</sup>	0.9	1.1	20.4	27.0
Jan.	14.2	14.7	6.7	8.5	3.9	3.1	1.0	1.2	27.5	28.4
Feb.	10.9	11.9	6.9	8.4	2.5	2.1	0.9	1.2	22.1	24.7
Mar.	11.4	13.8	6.4	8.9	2.8	2.3	0.9	1.0	22.7	27.9
April	16.5	18.0	7.1	8.9	3.0	2.4	1.0	1.1	29.6	31.8
May	29.6	25.8 <sup>x</sup>	8.0	9.5	3.6	2.5	1.0	1.0	43.7	40.6
Eleven Months	170.5	166.1	70.9	93.7	30.3	33.7	10.4	12.2	294.0	317.8
Twelve Months	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
	194.6	202.0	78.0	89.0	33.6	31.0	11.5	13.0	351.2	348.5

x Including other taxes. xx Budget estimate. ø Reduction in rates.

Total tax receipts for the eleven months ended May, 1947 totalled £317.8 millions that is £23.8 millions more than in 1945/46. An increase in post office receipts is exceeded by greater expenditure under that heading. The rise in social services commitments is due to the introduction of hospital benefits (£4.1 millions for the eleven months) and increased payments for other benefits. The total expenditure of £56.3 millions shown under that heading includes £3.1 millions paid from the balance held in the National Welfare Fund. The budget for 1946-47 provides for social service payments of £67.67 millions, of which £3.67 millions are to be met from the National Welfare Fund balances. Defence and War II expenditure, budgeted at £221 millions for the year, totalled £184.6 millions for the eleven months; because of the increased revenue, a greater proportion than provided for in the budget has been met by current revenue and less recourse has been had to loan funds.

**COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR ELEVEN MONTHS ENDED MAY**  
(£ millions)

REVENUE			EXPENDITURE		
Item	1945/46	1946/47	Item	1945/46	1946/47
Customs & Excise	70.9	93.7	Social Services	49.0	56.3
Income Tax	170.5	166.1	Payments to States	14.9	18.4
Sales Tax	30.3	33.7	Tax Reimbursed to States	28.3	34.2
Payroll Tax	10.4	12.2	Post Office	19.1	20.7
Other Taxes	11.9	12.1	Other	42.7)	58.7
Total Taxes	294.0	317.8	Self-Balancing x	)	17.9
Post Office	26.0	27.2	Total of above	154.0	206.2
Other	9.3)	6.9	Defence & War II xx	364.8	184.6
Self-balancing x	)	17.9	Total Expenditure	518.8	390.8
Total Revenue	329.3	369.8			

x Revenue from flour, wheat, and wool charges earmarked for assistance and promotion of wheat and wool industries. xx Includes expenditure from loan fund.

Treasury bill circulation in Australia fell by £5 millions during May, 1947; the total outstanding at the end of May was £268 millions as against £366 millions a year earlier.

**CASH ORDER BUSINESS, NEW SOUTH WALES:**

During the war years cash order transactions were controlled under National Security regulations, but this control has now reverted to the State and is administered under the Moneylenders and Infants Loans Act as amended in 1946. Under this Act, the maximum amount issuable to any person (which was fixed at £10 in 1941) has been raised to £20. The maximum period of repayment is fixed at 20 weeks from the date of issue; maximum charges to borrowers are 9d in the £ as premium on the amount of the cash order, and



and cash order traders can claim up to 10% discount from retailers. The Minister has power to determine the volume of business for any one trader. Cash orders are used by people in the lower wage groups, principally for the purchase of clothing, footwear, Manchester, and household necessities, and the Act enables the Government to exercise a restraint on such consumer spending when desirable; to date no restrictions on cash order tradings have been imposed.

Quarterly figures collected during the war indicate that the total cash orders issued in Australia fell from about £4 millions a year during the early part of the war to £2.4 millions in 1944-45. No separate figures for individual States were issued for that period but the greater part of the business (71% in 1939) is transacted in New South Wales.

Quarterly returns rendered by about 35 cash order traders in this State as from the end of 1945 reveal a large seasonal increase for the December quarters. The total for the March quarter of 1947 was £337,000, an increase of about 20% over the March quarter of 1946. Turnover in clothing and piece goods departments of city retail stores rose by about 8% during that period. This indicates that after their decline during the war years, cash orders are now increasing more than total retail sales, but the cash order business has not yet reached the pre-war level.

CASH ORDERS ISSUED - NEW SOUTH WALES  
(£ thousands)

x	1946	1945	1946				1947
Year	Year	December Quarter	March Quarter	June Quarter	September Quarter	December Quarter	March Quarter
2,867	2,020	616	282	551	453	734	337

x Report on Cash orders 1941.

LIFE ASSURANCE - NEW SOUTH WALES:

Life assurance business in New South Wales has greatly expanded during the war years. The total sum assured rose from £196.6 millions at the end of 1939 to £278.8 millions at the end of 1945. The increase in new business from £25.7 millions in 1939 to £31.5 millions in 1945 has been exclusively in the ordinary assurances, and has been stimulated by the growing popularity of group schemes and superannuation benefits schemes established by commercial and industrial enterprises. The average amount of policy in 1945 was £374 in the ordinary branch and £50 in the industrial branch (£364 and £45 at the end of 1939).

Monthly returns available from the Commonwealth Insurance Commissioner as from January, 1947 indicate that new life assurance business continues to expand and is above the high level of the war years. (Monthly figures do not include the new business of the Government Insurance Office of New South Wales but that amounted to less than 1% of the total in 1944/45; later returns not yet available).

LIFE ASSURANCE - NEW POLICIES ISSUED IN NEW SOUTH WALES. a)

Year and Month	Ordinary Department		Industrial Department		Total Sum Assured
	No. of Policies thousands	Sum Assured £ millions	No. of Policies thousands	Sum Assured £ millions	
Year 1939	50.5	18.2	156.8	7.5	25.7
1944	51.3	21.0	110.6	7.1	28.1
1945	53.9	24.0	109.9	7.5	31.5
1947(b) Jan.	4.6	1.8	5.8	0.5	2.3
Feb.	6.5	2.7	10.8	0.9	3.6
March	6.9	3.1	7.6	0.6	3.7
April	6.6	2.8	5.6	0.5	3.3

a) Excludes annuities.

(b) Excludes business of Government Insurance Office of New South Wales.

RETAIL TRADE (Large Sydney Stores)

The value of sales in large city stores in April, 1947 was about 13% higher than in April, 1946 and 66% higher than in April 1945. The rate of increase in store turnovers has slowed down during the current year but it continues to exceed the high turnovers of 1945 and 1946 which had been stimulated by demobilisation demands. The value of sales in 1946 was about two-thirds higher than in 1939; part of that increase was due to higher prices. High incomes are keeping up retail turnovers and some of the accumulated demand of the war years has not yet been met because of shortages and rationing. Increased local output and imports have enabled stores to improve their stock position but in most cases not sufficiently yet to bring stocks to what are regarded as normal levels.

RETAIL TRADE - EXPERIENCE OF LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage increase(+) or decrease(-) on same month of previous year.

Value of	1946						1947			
	May	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Sales	+52	+45	+32	+28	+14	+33	+17	+12	+16	+13
Stock	-13	+ 8	+12	+21	+29	+38	+39	+39	+38	+39

Comparing April 1947 and April 1946, the furniture and hardware department show the largest increases in sales. Turnover in the clothing and piece goods section was 8% higher but a rise of about 5% in clothing prices during the period must be taken into account.

The women's wear, boot and shoes, furniture, and electrical goods departments show increases of 40% - 100% in the value of stocks.

The number of employees in large city stores has risen by about 10% during the year. Remuneration to employees amounted to 13.8% of sales in April, 1947 as compared with 14.6% in April 1945 and 17.5% in April, 1939.

LARGE SYDNEY STORES

Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) April 1947 compared with April 1946.

	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Stock</u>		<u>Sales</u>	<u>Stock</u>
	%	%		%	%
Piece Goods	+13	+17	Furniture	+36	+68
Women's Wear	+ 6	+40	Hardware	+28	+46
Men's Wear	+10	+17	Food & Perishables	+ 9	+51
Boots & Shoes	+ 7	+102	Miscellaneous	+ 6	+21
Total Clothing & Piece Goods	+ 8	+34	All Classes	+13	+39

OVERSEAS TRADE - AUSTRALIA:

The value of imports into Australia in April, 1947 was £24.7 millions, that is higher than in any previous month since the war. For the ten months ended April, the value totalled £183 millions, as compared with £162.6 millions and £106.3 millions for the same periods of 1945/46 and 1938/39. As import prices have more than doubled since 1938/39, it appears that the volume of imports is still below pre-war levels although there has been a great increase in civilian imports since last year.

OVERSEA TRADE - AUSTRALIA

(excluding bullion and specie movements)  
(£A millions)

	Ten months ended April		
	1939	1946	1947
Imports : Civil Trade	( 106.3	96.3	166.8
Govt. Account	(	66.3	16.2
Total	106.3	162.6	183.0
Exports : Total	119.3	152.9	250.8
Balance	+13.0	-9.7	+67.8

(+) denotes excess of exports; (-) excess of imports.



The composition of imports according to countries of origin shows that imports from sterling countries were 58% of the total in 1946/47 as against 52% in 1938/39, - the rise being mainly due to increased imports from India, Malaya and Ceylon. The United States provided 17% of imports in 1946/47 as compared with 10% in 1938/39.

TOTAL IMPORTS - COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN (£ millions)  
Ten Months ended April

	1939	1947
United Kingdom	42.5	69.3
Canada	8.1	13.9
Other British Countries	13.0	37.9
U.S.A.	15.4	31.9
Germany & Japan	8.6	0.4
Other Countries	18.7	22.6
T o t a l	<u>106.3</u>	<u>183.0</u>

The rise in the value of commodity exports from £153 millions in 1945/46 to £251 millions in 1946/47 (ten months periods) is partly due to the increase of £50 millions in the value of wool exports. However, it appears that 40-50% of this year's wool exports was made up by wool from the 1945/46 and earlier clips (appraised in year of production, but shipment delayed), so that the value of exports from current production is lower than the above figures indicate. The share of the United States and other countries in wool purchases at the 1946/47 auction sales cannot be derived from current export statistics as these include "old" wool. Close comparison between quantities sold and exported is not possible on the information published to date, but the following figures indicate the position in respect of Australia:-

Ten Months ended April, 1947 (Million lbs)		
	Wool sold at Auction Sales 1946/47 Clip	Total Wool Exports incl. previous clips
Greasy Wool	701	882
Scoured Wool	<u>28</u>	<u>154</u>

When the weight difference between greasy and scoured wool is taken into account (1 lb of greasy wool to about 2.18 lbs of scoured) ~~together~~ with purchases by Australian woollen mills (about 15% of the total clip in 1943-44), it is clear that current exports were nearly twice as high as wool from the current clip available for export.

Quantities and values of exports of wheat and flour, tinned and frozen meats, and other primary products (excepting butter and pork products) were higher in 1946/47 than in 1945/46. There has been a notable rise, during and since the war, in the export of processed foods such as cheese, and other milk products, flour, and tinned meats, but shipments of other products (flour, butter, frozen meat, dried fruits and sugar) were much smaller in 1946/47 than in 1938/39 although the rise in prices made up partly for that fall.

Imports and exports for May, 1947 totalled £25.5 millions and £29.7 millions respectively. For the eleven months ended May, 1947 imports were £208.6 millions and exports £280.5 millions as against £180 millions and £172.9 millions for the same period of 1945-46.

PART III : RURAL INDUSTRIES.THE SEASON:

Mild weather prevailed over the State during May with good rainfalls spread over most districts towards the end of the month. The weather has generally been favourable for sowing and germination in the wheat districts but more rain is needed in the southern and western districts where the effects of the previous long dry spell have not yet been completely overcome. The position in pastoral districts is not so satisfactory as rainfalls in April and May were below normal; pasture growth has been slow and may not be sufficient for winter feeding. Rain in many dairy districts came too late to benefit pasture growth and has not favoured the preparation of land for winter feed sowings on the North Coast.

Widespread rainfalls over inland districts in June were followed by a change to cold weather over the State.

RAINFALL INDEX, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall.

Normal rainfall each month = 100.

Period	Sheep Districts					Wheat Districts				Dairying Districts <sup>x</sup>		
	N.	C.	S.	W.	State	N.	C.	S.	State	N.	C.	S.
1944 (Year)	66	54	53	53	57	68	51	52	53	87	69	60
1945 (Year)	99	101	86	77	93	95	100	84	89	114	98	104
1946 Sept.	203	68	15	156	99	160	47	10	39	101	76	52
Oct.	34	63	51	117	46	24	61	45	47	103	51	66
Nov.	84	77	191	73	116	71	100	196	155	45	66	225
Dec.	78	83	98	116	90	72	88	102	94	79	77	34
1947 Jan.	77	21	8	7	31	51	27	8	18	190	75	31
Feb.	271	271	176	462	261	263	257	175	207	198	242	160
March	142	82	151	178	132	100	83	165	136	126	70	39
April	81	59	96	45	76	58	76	95	85	127	113	186
May	62	88	41	51	61	61	83	43	56	78	101	32

x Coastal districts only.

N. Northern; C. Central; S. Southern; W. Western.

WOOL:

During May, sales of 1946-47 wool totalled 97,900 bales in Sydney and 2,600 bales in Goulburn, with another 3,500 bales shipped ex store for disposal abroad. About 56,000 bales were received into store, and sales reduced the balance in store from 127,000 bales at the end of April to 79,000 bales. Wool exports from the State for the eleven months ended May were 1.72 million bales, including a large proportion of wool from previous clips.

MOVEMENT OF WOOL STOCKS

July 1946 to May 1947

1946/47 Clip	Thousand bales.
N.S.W. Stores: Received	1,096
Disposed	1,017
Balance in Store	79
Exports from N.S.W. (incl. wool from earlier clips)	1,717

The 1946-47 selling season was characterised by rising prices for all types of good quality wool. Auction sales in New South Wales closed firmly with the general average at approximately 25½d per lb. greasy in May and June. The demand for burry carbonising types has not been strong, partly because of the shortage of carbonising plant and chemicals overseas, and partly because of substantial offerings of such wool from Joint Organisation stocks.



## AVERAGE PRICE FOR GREASY WOOL.- Sydney.

Year ended 30th June	d per lb.	Month	x' d per lb.
1928	19.5	1946 Sept.	20.5
1931	8.7	Oct.	21.5
1939	10.3	Nov.	23.0
1940	13.4x	Dec.	23.0
1941 and 1942	13.1x	1947 Jan.	24.0
1943 to 1946	15.1x	Feb.-April	25.0
		May-June	25.5

x On basis of British Government contract. xx Average rate that would be realised if whole clip were sold at Sydney price levels of that month.

On present indications the keen demand for wool from the Australian, English and continental users will continue into the next season. Spinning plant in the war-affected countries is being restored and arrangements are being made to facilitate the financing of wool purchases; so it was recently announced that Australia is granting a credit of £stg.500,000 to the Government of Czechoslovakia for the purchase of Australian Wool. As part of the British export drive, the textile industry is stepping up production; German woolcombing, spinning and weaving plant, as far as it is not required for German home requirements, will be used for the British industry. It will be operated on British account and the wool will be shipped direct to the German plants though payment is to be effected through the British buyers.

To date only small quantities of Australian wool (7,300 bales) have been shipped to Japan, and definite plans for further shipments have not yet been announced. The danger of increased wool tariffs in the United States has, at least temporarily, been averted but purchases of Australian wool for the United States cannot be expected to continue at the high war-time level, when it amounted to about half of the Australian clip as compared with less than 5% before the war.

WHEAT:

Sowings for the 1947-48 crop have been completed in New South Wales and conditions generally have been favourable for the germination of seed. Progress tabulations of farmers' returns indicate that a total area of approximately 5 million acres has been sown to wheat this season (about 4.6 million acres for grain and the balance for hay and green feed).

This area is approximately half a million acres greater than the area sown with wheat in 1946-47 and considerably less than was generally anticipated. It falls short of the total area sown with wheat in 1938-39 (5,246,000 acres) and is still further below the record area of 5,674,000 acres sown with wheat in 1930-31.

Revised estimates for the 1946-47 wheat crop in Australia, which have now been issued by the Commonwealth Statistician, put the total harvested for grain at 116.49 million bushels as compared with 142.41 million bushels in 1945-46 and an average of 169.4 million bushels for ten years prior to the war. The failure of the New South Wales and Queensland crops in 1946-47 was partly compensated by the satisfactory Victorian harvest. The South and Western Australian crops, though above the previous years' figures, were considerably lower than during pre-war years.

The wheat export price (Australian Wheat Board's basic export price f.o.r. ports) has now risen to 16/4 a bushel (June, 1947,) as against 10/2 in June, 1946 and 2/6 in 1939. The recent International Wheat Conference in London failed to obtain agreement between producers and consumers, but a draft was prepared for submission to the International Wheat Council providing for maximum and minimum price limits within which importers undertake to buy certain guaranteed quantities, though it will be difficult to fix such "wheat points" at levels acceptable to both producers and consumers. The United States, fearful of a slump in the wheat market during next season, want to fix prices at current levels, while the United Kingdom is inclined to defer long-term commitments because a cheapening of food imports is an essential part of its recovery programme.

## WHEAT EXPORT PRICES, AUSTRALIA

(Per bushel)

1928	1939	1940	1945	1946	1947					
			January	January	January	February	March	April	May	June
5/1	2/6	4/-	6/5	9/8	13/8½	14/6	15/7	16/2	16/2½	16/4

Note: 1928 and 1939 figures "Shippers" Limits f.o.r. ports"; since then mean of Australian Wheat Boards basic export price for bulk and bagged wheat reduced to f.o.r. ports.

DAIRYING:

Butter production in New South Wales factories for the 1946-47 season is likely to be little more than 27,000 tons - the lowest figure since 1920. The average annual factory production of butter for the three seasons ended June 1942 was 44,800 tons. Output of New South Wales factories for the eleven months ended May, 1947 was 25,300 tons, that is 6,600 tons less than in 1945/46 and 17,100 below the average of 1939 to 1942.

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER IN FACTORIES, NEW SOUTH WALES  
(Thousand tons)

Period		Average	1945/46	1946/47
		1939/40 to 1941/42		
Six Months -	July to December	21.0	16.1	11.0
Month	January	5.0	3.6	2.8
	February	4.7	3.6	3.3
	March	4.7	3.8	3.6
	April	3.9	2.8	2.6
	May	3.1	2.0	2.0
Eleven Months -	July - May	42.4	31.9	25.3
	June	2.4	1.2	---
Twelve Months		44.8	33.1	---

Cheese production also fell off during the current year. Output for the eleven months ended May, 1947 totalled 1,957 tons as against 2,104 tons and 2,555 tons for the same periods of 1945-46 and the average of 1939-42. The wholomilk equivalent of milk used for processing in the form of concentrated, condensed and powdered milk, and milk foods rose from 4.2 million gallons in 1937-38 to 17.1 million gallons in 1945-46; for the ten months ended April, 1947, 13 million gallons were used for this purpose in New South Wales.

MEAT PRODUCTION:

In spite of increased demand, beef and veal production in New South Wales declined during the war years. Production of beef fell from 150,000 tons in 1938-39 to 113,000 tons in 1944-45, but showed improvement to 119,000 tons in 1945-46. Veal production fell from 22,000 tons in 1938-39 to 13,000 tons in 1944-45 and 12,000 tons in 1945-46. Production of mutton rose from 72,000 tons in 1938-39 to 101,000 tons in 1943-44 but adverse seasons have reduced flocks since and production fell to 85,000 tons in 1945-46. Production of lamb, which had been 29,000 tons in 1938-39 and 56,000 in 1943-44, remained above pre-war level at 41,000 tons in 1945-46. The level of production during the current year has been below that of 1945-46. Production of canned meats was greatly stimulated by wartime demands and has been maintained since, rising from 1,500 tons in 1938-39 to 11,900 tons in 1945-46.

The trend in meat production is summarised in the following table.

MEAT PRODUCTION - NEW SOUTH WALES  
(Thousand tons)

Period	Beef & Veal	Mutton & Lamb	Canned Meat
Year			
Average 1937-39	181.9	105.0	1.4
Average 1939-45	152.6	132.6	10.6
1945-46	130.1	125.3	11.9
Ten Months ended			
April, 1946	105.0	101.7	
April, 1947	109.1	96.4	